Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) An automated voice generator for generating a voice output in the pronunciation of a second language corresponding to a text item in a different first language, comprising:

a ~~spelling translator~~ means for automatically ~~translating~~ converting the spelling of an original text item in the first language into a new text item by:

(i) identifying a character ~~or string~~ in the original text item that is not included in the alphabet of the second language, and

(ii) replacing ~~only~~ said identified character ~~or string~~ in the original text item with a character or string in the alphabet of the second language having a pronunciation equivalent or similar to the pronunciation of the identified character ~~or string~~ in the first language; and

means for generating voice by pronouncing the new text item according to the pronunciation of the second language.

2.   (Original) The voice generator according to claim 1, wherein the original text item comprises place name text items assigned to respective places.

3.   (Currently Amended) The voice generator according to claim 1, wherein the first language character ~~or string~~ and the second language character or string are included in a place name text item representing a place name.

4.   (Currently Amended) The voice generator according to claim 1, wherein the first language character ~~or string~~ is in French and the second language character or string is in English.

5.   (Currently Amended) The voice generator according to claim 1, wherein the first language character ~~or string~~ is in Spanish and the second language character or string is in English.

6. (Currently Amended) The voice generator according to claim 1, wherein the first language character ~~or string~~ is in German and the second language character or string is in English.

7. (Currently Amended) An automated voice generator for generating a voice output in the pronunciation of a second language corresponding to a text item in a different first language, comprising:

a ~~spelling translator~~ means for automatically ~~translating~~ converting the spelling of an abbreviated original text item in the first language into a new text item by:

(i) replacing the abbreviated original text item with a full text item in the first language,

(ii) identifying a character ~~or string~~ in the full text item that is not included in the alphabet of the second language, and

(iii) replacing ~~only~~ said identified character ~~or string~~ in the full text item with a character or string in the alphabet of the second language having a pronunciation equivalent or similar to the pronunciation of the identified character ~~or string~~ in the first language; and

means for generating voice by pronouncing the new text item according to the pronunciation of the second language.

8. (Currently Amended) The voice generator according to claim 7, wherein the first language character ~~or string~~ is in French and the second language character or string is in English.

9. (Currently Amended) The voice generator according to claim 7, wherein the first language character ~~or string~~ is in Spanish and the second language character or string is in English.

10. (Currently Amended) The voice generator according to claim 7, wherein the first language character ~~or string~~ is in German and the second language character or string is in English.

11. (Currently Amended) An automated method for generating a voice output in the pronunciation of a second language corresponding to a text item in a different first language, comprising:

automatically ~~translating~~ converting the spelling of an original text item in the first language into a new text item by:

(i) identifying a character ~~or string~~ in the original text item that is not included in the alphabet of the second language, and

(ii) replacing ~~only~~ said identified character ~~or string~~ in the original text item with a character or string in the alphabet of the second language having a pronunciation equivalent or similar to the pronunciation of the identified character ~~or string~~ in the first language; and

generating voice by pronouncing the new text item according to the pronunciation of the second language.

12. (Currently Amended) The method for generating voice according to claim 11, wherein the first language character ~~or string~~ and the second language character or string are included in a place name text item representing a place name.

13. (Currently Amended) The method for generating voice according to claim 12, wherein the first language character ~~or string~~ is in French and the second language character or string is in English.

14. (Currently Amended) The method for generating voice according to claim 12, wherein the first language character ~~or string~~ is in Spanish and the second language character or string is in English.

15. (Currently Amended) The method for generating voice according to claim 12, wherein the first language character ~~or string~~ is in German and the second language character or string is in English.

16. (Currently Amended) A navigation apparatus for guiding users, comprising:

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a map database for storing geographic information containing a place name text item representing each place name;

means for reading out the place name text item from the map database;

~~a spelling translator~~ means for automatically ~~translating~~ converting the spelling of the place name text item in a first language into a new text item by:

(i) identifying a character ~~or string~~ in the place name text item that is not included in the alphabet of a second language, and

(ii) replacing ~~only~~ said identified character ~~or string~~ in the place name text item with a character or string in the alphabet of the second language having a pronunciation equivalent or similar to the pronunciation of the identified character ~~or string~~ in the first language; and

means for generating voice by pronouncing the new text item according to the pronunciation of the second language.

17.   (Currently Amended) The navigation apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the ~~spelling translator conducts spelling translation by referring~~ means for converting refers to replacement rules identified in a ~~translation~~ rule table that associates a character ~~or string~~ in the first language that is not included in the alphabet of the second language with a character or string in the alphabet of the second language having an equivalent or similar pronunciation.

18.   Currently Amended) The navigation apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the ~~spelling translator~~ means for converting operates ~~to conduct spelling translation~~ between any of a plurality of first languages and the second language.